

Christ
Lutheran
Church

Proclaimer

Worship

Sunday Morning
Holy Communion
At 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Education

Sunday Morning -

9:15 a.m. for All Ages:

Children 3 & up -

Meet upstairs in their
classrooms

Junior High Youth:

Youth Room

Adults - Fellowship

Hall

Nursery

Nursery is available for
children who are infants
through 4 years of age
during Sunday morning
worship and the Sunday
School hour.

Office

Monday - Thursday from
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday from

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

210-822-3394

office@clcah.org



*Through God's Grace
All are welcome as we joyfully,
Receive...to Give
Learn...to Serve
and Worship...to Grow.*

March 2018

From the Stewardship Team: Receive to Give

As you may have noticed, our stewardship campaign slogan, "Receive to Give," is drawn from the CLCAH mission statement. And while we may see it every week, what it means may not be so easy to discern. When I looked at it more carefully, I realized I hadn't really thought about it. It dawned on me that we usually think of giving in very different terms. We are often encouraged to give and provide others with assistance with the idea that it will help us in some way, that is, so that we receive some benefit, a reward, as it were, for giving. We show that we are a caring or generous person by giving. The suggestion is that the giving will make us happy, fulfilled, or simply a "good person."

However, as Lutherans we are aware of Luther's warnings about getting caught up in "good works," the danger of treating acts of kindness, outreach activities, or help to others with the expectation of being rewarded with God's favor or simply our neighbor's approval. Luther instead reminded us of what we have already received: God's love and grace. Luther's teaching about God's radical gift reminds us that we cannot and do not earn anything through our gifts. Rather, as recipients of God's grace we already have everything we need. This gift is what empowers us to live and gives us joy, impelling us to share with others what we have been granted.

Stewardship in this way of thinking is not so much a matter of giving up physical treasures that we have amassed, but gladly sharing all that we have been given. We share the greatest wealth given to us without having done anything for it: God's grace. Through this grace we understand that everything we have: our talents, skills, abilities, and successes are gifts from God. Whether we have a little or a lot is not so important. All of this brings us to a sense of gratitude that compels us to want to share these with others. We pass on cheerfully to others the gifts we have been given out of gratitude.

(Continued on the top of page 2)

Groups

Angelicus Choir

Every Wednesday

5:30 p.m. - Sanctuary

Book Club

First Tuesday

6:45 p.m. - Location TBA

Dominos Group

First Thursday

9:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall

First Thursday Lunch

First Thursday

12:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

Gloria Choir

Every Wednesday

6:15 p.m. - Sanctuary

Healing Prayer

Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.

Rode Prayer Chapel

Joseph's Sons

First Monday

6:30 p.m. - Location TBA

Lydia Circle

Second Monday

6:30 p.m. - Primrose House

Men's Breakfast

Second Tuesday

7:00 a.m. - Bill Miller BBQ

Mulligans

Second Tuesday

6:30 p.m. - Hoffbrau

Quilters

Every Tuesday

9:00 a.m. - Primrose House

Sanctuary Choir

Every Wednesday

7:05 p.m. - Sanctuary

Soul Sisters

First Thursday

7:00 p.m. - Julian's

Other groups meet during the year. For information, please contact our church office or visit our website www.clcah.org.

Stewardship *(Continued from page 1)*

In Thessalonians, Paul calls on us to “rejoice always” and to “give in all circumstances” out of joy and gratitude at first having received from God a gift freely given. According to Luther: “God’s love gives in such a way that it flows from a Father’s heart, the wellspring of all good. The heart of the giver makes the gift dear and precious; as among ourselves we say of even a trifling gift, ‘It comes from a hand we love,’ and look not so much at the gift as at the heart.”

- Martin Bauer

Wednesday Lenten Worship

Join us at our regular midweek Lenten worship services on Wednesdays at noon in the Sanctuary followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall. Wednesday weekly worship will include a beautiful sung liturgy, similar to Holden Evening Prayer, to guide our time, and then we will gather for a meal together.

CLC Blood Drive March 4

Giving blood means bridging the space between two lives. One is healthy, vibrant, and generous. The other is experiencing illness, trauma, and uncertainty. Making a blood donation is one of the most intimate and priceless gifts one can give, and The South Texas Blood & Tissue Center (STBTC) is honored to be the bridge between those two lives. Whether you are 16 years old or well over 70, you can help STBTC ensure blood is available whenever and wherever it is needed. Join us in this life saving mission by giving blood.

CLC will host a blood donation drive on Sunday, March 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The mobile unit will be in the Primrose parking lot. Please sign up in the CrossWay or call the church office to secure a time slot. Please consider being a donor.

Thank you to Carole Parker for being the contact person for the drive.

Water Wells: Our Lenten Gift to Rural Africa

We get up, brush our teeth, use our flushable toilets, make coffee with water that flows easily from the tap. We wash the dishes, shower, run a load of laundry. Water. It's the beautiful common denominator in much of what we do, in much of what we take for granted.

But right this minute almost a billion people on earth do not enjoy the luxury of clean, safe water, not to mention indoor plumbing. Their days are an endless search for water and they are at risk of disease and early death. Lack of water impacts everything: health, education, family, work, survival. 80% of all disease in developing countries is caused by unclean water and more than 3 million people die each year from waterborne-disease. Many are children.

Water to Thrive

Our Lent 2018 offering is dedicated to building a water well in Africa through the Austin-based, faith-inspired, non-profit, Water to Thrive. It costs \$5,000 to build one clean water well, and this organization has funded more than 500 water projects in Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uganda since it launched its mission in 2008. One well will provide safe, clean water to more than 250 people for 20 years. Wow.

A Beautiful Vision

Working with donors in the U.S. and its implementing partners in Africa, Water to Thrive "envisions a world where we share our gifts and blessings to provide health, hope, and water to all."

Your Offering WILL Save Lives

In these drought-stricken, water-poor countries, young girls drop out of school because they must spend their days walking to collect and carry water. Women are so busy searching for water, they cannot work and support their families. Sickness and loss of income create an endless cycle of hopeless poverty. All because there is no water.

A Fitting Mission

Our Lenten topics this season are varied, and all include outreach to those who are marginalized, misunderstood or have a history of enduring injustice. Our brothers and sisters in Africa who struggle daily to survive without clean water are among those who suffer severely and need a helping hand. We would like to help, and we can.

Water to Thrive reports that every \$1 invested in water sees an \$8 return in economic development. Children can live. Rural villages can thrive. All because we gave the gift of water. What a remarkable way to observe the holy days of Lent and to honor our Savior.

For more information on Water to Thrive, visit www.watertothrive.org.

Praises To

- The junior high youth for participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. The youth collected \$884.00 for CAM! Thank you for your generosity!
- The sponsors and youth who attended the High School Youth Gathering at Camp Chrysalis.
- Chaplains Lisa Tice and Heather Bodwell and Pastors Howard Stendahl and Tom Robison for preaching while Pastor Leslie was on parental leave.
- Dan Long and Matthew Goodson for their help with the Wednesday Lenten Services in February.
- Paul Pfeifer and Carl Hughes for stepping in to teach Faith University in February.
- All who sent well wishes and love to Leslie and Jayme as they began fostering Melissa and Sabrina.

Faith University, Sundays throughout Lent

Our new Mission & Outreach Team has been building up our efforts to increase the mission involvement of CLC. Join us during Lent as we hear from various team leaders about the important work this team has planned for us ... and we hope you will join us! We have had four foci for our efforts two of which you learned about in February two who will learn about in March: 1) increasing our welcome to the LGBTQ community, 2) beginning a relationship with an African-American congregation to witness to our desire for interracial justice, 3) increasing our support for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, and 4) investing in the education of the poorest members of our community of San Antonio through the work of the San Antonio Sponsoring Committee.

Here's the schedule for Faith University for the month of March:

March 4: Pastor Michael Coffey will share with us his experience in forming a relationship between his congregation, First English Lutheran Church, and Vision of Hope African Methodist Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas. He will reflect on the importance of churches being intentional about bridging the racial and cultural divides that exist in church and society.

March 11: Welcoming the Stranger in a Strange Land: Join Paul Pfeifer for a review of immigration laws, current immigration policies and practices, and how Christianity and the Lutheran faith look at this age-old issue.

March 18: San Antonio Sponsoring Committee & Education – Christ Lutheran is part of the San Antonio Sponsoring Committee, a group of interfaith communities and organizations coming together to identify actionable issues for the betterment of our community. Lisa Diana, member of CLC and candidate for the Ministry of Word & Service in the ELCA, will lead a discussion about what this wider group is doing and how we as a church can participate, particularly in the area of education.

March 25: Putting it all Together – What have you learned during adult education this Lent? How might God be calling you to be a part of Christ Lutheran's mission and outreach in this community and the world?

Lucy Circle ... Join the Conversation

CLC women are invited to join Lucy Circle on Sunday, March 18 at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor for a discussion of the essay, "What My Mother's Death Taught Me About Life" by Tanja Pajevic. You can read and download the essay for FREE at <http://gawker.com/what-my-mother-s-death-taught-me-about-life-1487693983>. This continuing series of thought-provoking readings leads to interesting, insightful conversation, and fellowship in an environment of trust. We hope you'll join us.

The Power of We – Women’s Retreat

This spring the women of Christ Lutheran are once again invited to gather at the beach in Port Aransas. This year’s retreat will be led by Jennifer Dunn and Heather Rosenquist. Under their leadership, we will explore the ways women support each other in day-to-day life and become more powerful as a “we” rather than just a “me.” They have a variety of activities and learning experiences planned for us. Many thanks to them for sharing their gifts with us. We will stay at the Mustang Island Retreat Center, a ministry of the Episcopal Church. The cost for the weekend is \$250 for double occupancy rooms and most meals are covered. Registration is due by Sunday, March 18. You can pick up a registration packet in the CrossWay or go online to download the forms and make your payment.

Stewardship Sunday

Stewardship Sunday will be April 22. Over the next few months, the stewardship team will be spreading the good news about our stewardship activities with a focus on our mission statement of “Receive to Give.” We will highlight the incredible benevolence our congregation provides to the world. We will highlight the "bounty of riches" that make being a part of CLC so fulfilling. Most importantly, we will highlight all the different ways that you can choose to give of your time, talent, and treasure. I am honored to lead the stewardship campaign, and one of my main goals for the campaign is to educate the congregation on how your stewardship impacts our congregation and the world around us. The stewardship campaign was moved to the spring to put it closer to the start of our church financial year (July 1) so that the Congregation Council will have better input for building our annual budget. When we present the budget at the annual meeting it will be more closely tied to the results of the stewardship campaign.

- Joe Diana, Congregation Council VP and Stewardship Committee Chair

Save the Date

From the Pastor . . . a staffing update

First of all, let me say a huge thank you to each of you for the support that Jayme and I have received in fostering our two daughters. We are delighted to be caring for them and overwhelmed by the congregation's kindness and generosity towards all four of us. Due to the fostering process, we were called at a moment's notice (literally, we had about three hours to prepare) to take on the girls as an emergency placement. From diapers and meals to toys and clothes, you helped us during a fast transition to provide what we needed for these sweet girls. Thank you!

At the same time that all this was happening, Carrie Jowers, our Director of Faith Formation, was reconsidering her sense of call to work with our children and youth at church. After some discernment, Carrie determined that she would like to continue on staff at CLC but transition her role to become our Jr. & Sr. High Youth Director. Her position will now be part-time, averaging fifteen hours a week and focusing on this limited age group. Brandon Albrecht (longtime, active member at our church), who has been faithfully volunteering in these ministry areas, will be hired for a five-hour-a-week position to support Carrie as she transitions into this role. We are overjoyed that Carrie will remain on staff with us. She has done phenomenal work with our children, youth, and families, and I know she will continue to be a strong leader for our youth and family ministries.

To oversee our children's ministries, we are delighted to announce that we have hired Tessa Baden, associate member of our congregation and an Instructional Specialist with PreK4SA. She's a graduate of Texas Lutheran with a degree in early childhood education, and she has a master's in behavior from UTSA. She's also mom to Della Ann, who will turn three in June. Tessa is a lifelong Lutheran who grew up at First English Lutheran Church in Austin, where our former associate pastor Michael Coffey now serves as pastor. Tessa, as our Children's Ministry Director, will lead our Sunday School program, VBS, and various other aspects of our ministry with birth through elementary-aged children. We are delighted to have Tessa on staff and welcome her leadership and ideas for building upon our already strong children's ministries.

Breaking this role down into various pieces has allowed us to make one additional hire and still remain within the budget adopted by the congregation at the start of our fiscal year. I am pleased to announce that we have hired member, Lisa Diana, (five hours per week) to serve as our Minister for Mission & Outreach. As many of you know, Lisa has regularly volunteered countless hours in strengthening and developing our outreach ministries. She has a degree in psychology from Texas State and her master's from Texas Tech in human development and family studies. She is currently a student in Luther Seminary's Distributed Learning Program, pursuing the credits she needs to serve as a Minister of Word and Service within the ELCA. Hiring Lisa seems like a natural extension of our commitment to benevolence and outreach, which will help us continue to grow in our mission to serve other in Jesus' name.

I apologize to the congregation that all of these changes took place when I was unable to be fully at the helm and present in the office due to my family obligations, and that therefore there has been a delay in finalizing our staffing plan and communicating it to all of you. Your church leadership and I feel extremely confident that these hiring decisions will provide the most continuity for our program, combined with offering an incredible set of gifts and skills to lift our ministries to even higher levels of engagement, involvement, and discipleship. Please feel free to reach out to me or the Congregation Council with any thoughts, questions, or concerns.

In peace,
Pastor Leslie

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday Service will be held March 25 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. We celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem even as it points hauntingly to his ultimate betrayal, trial, crucifixion, and death. Palm processional and Holy Communion will be at both services.

Maundy Thursday Service is a solemn and beautiful worship on March 29 at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Leslie will preach. This service, which includes Holy Communion, leads us to reflect on Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. Here, gathering at the table and watching as Jesus kneels to wash the disciples' feet, we receive the absolution that was denied us on Ash Wednesday and the great commandment from Jesus that we love one another as he has loved us.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service on March 30 at 7:00 p.m. will be a unique combination of scripture and music. In telling the well-known traditional Passion story through the Book of John, the service also will employ popular music of our generation to serve as a source of inspiration, comfort and confidence through Good Friday's tragic message. Music by John Lennon, Paul McCartney, John Jacob Niles, Kris Kristofferson, Simon and Garfunkel, Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails, Johnny Cash and congregational hymns will create a distinctive spiritual service.

Easter Services will celebrate our Lord's triumph over death through resurrection on Sunday, April 1 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! The services are nearly identical, although the 10:30 a.m. service will include a children's message. Pastor Leslie will preach at both services, and both will include Holy Communion. Don't forget to bring flowers to place on the Resurrection Cross! An Easter Breakfast will be offered for all ages and Easter Egg Hunts for toddlers through 5th grade will be held between services at 9:15 a.m. Please join us as we celebrate!

Soul Sisters: 1st Thursday Each Month

Soul Sisters is a welcoming group of 20-40-somethings who identify as sisters on this faith journey together. We might be single or married, have children or not. We are a group for the young-at-heart, and we seek to have meaningful conversations about our lives of faith amidst the real struggles and challenges that come our way. We are a casual group that practices trust and unconditional love. We hope you'll join us on April 5 as we continue supporting one another through our journeys of life and faith! Contacts: Sarah Loyd and Pastor Leslie.

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 11. Remember to *Spring Forward* and set your clocks one hour ahead before you go to bed Saturday night.

From our new Children's Ministry Director . . .

My name is Tessa Baden, and my daughter, Della Ann, and I have been attending CLC for 4 years. I am an Instructional Specialist for the PreK4SA program, and I have dedicated the last 16 years to the education of young children. I am now honored to guide our youngest CLC members through their faith journey. I am truly blessed, for now my two deepest running passions, Education and Faith, are combined.

It is my goal to teach the word of Christ to the children of our church in a way they will understand and with which they can connect. The goals for our 3 year olds through kindergarten will continue to encourage love for church, stories in the bible, and prayer. The lessons for first through fifth grade will be connected to the actual church service to help with the depth of the connection. *Children have something to teach the rest of us when it comes to applying the things they learn at church. Every family needs their children to teach them about what and how they learn about the word of Christ.*

Encourage your child to share what they have learned in Sunday School.

Some questions to ask:

Who were the characters in the lesson today?

What happened to them?

Did anything surprise you about the story?

What lesson did it teach/remind you of?

How do you plan to use this lesson this week at school, home, with friends, or with family?

We are in need of members who are called to help guide our youngest followers of Christ. Please let me (512-775-0210; tessa@clcah.org) or Pastor Leslie know if you have any interest. You need not know how or what to teach to be a vital member of this ministry. We promise to give you the tools and encouragement you need to teach and teach well.

-Tessa Baden, Children's Ministry Director

Register Now for VBS!

When: Monday, July 9 through July 13

Where: Christ Lutheran Church

Who: Children ages 3 years old through incoming 5th grade

Confirmation News

8th Grade Confirmation Holy Week Attendance requirements:

Palm Sunday: Worship at 8:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. on March 25

Maundy Thursday: Worship at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday March 29

Good Friday: Evening worship at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 30

Easter Sunday: Worship at either 8:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 1

(If attending a different church, please submit a bulletin to Ms. Carrie or Pastor Leslie)

Required Confirmation Sunday School Class:

Please join Troy Hall and Jeff Jowers in the Youth Fellowship Room to continue our Confirmation studies.

Sunday, March 4: Miracles of Jesus

Sunday, March 11: No Sunday School due to Spring Break

Sunday, March 18: Breakfast Fellowship

Sunday, March 25: Sayings of Jesus

Save the Date!!

Large Group & Pizza Feast

Wednesday, April 4, Pizza Feast in Fellowship Hall starting at 5:30 p.m. with Confirmation Class following at 6:00 p.m. We will end our time together at 8:00 p.m. Please bring your Confirmation binder and Bible to class.

Save the Dates for summer 2018!

Camp Chrysalis: Sunday, June 10 through Friday, June 15 (woohoo cooler weather)

ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston: Wednesday, June 27 through Sunday, July 1

VBS: Monday, July 9 through July 13

Coming in April: Become a Stockholder and Support Our Youth

Our Youth will be traveling this summer to Houston, for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering! The senior high youth and their chaperones will depart on Wednesday, June 27 and return on Sunday, July 1. The Gathering will take place in three main venues: NRG Stadium, NRG Arena, and the NRG Center located in downtown Houston. The youth will gather with over 33,000 peers to learn about global issues, hear from speakers around the world, join in worship, and work together in service to better the lives of those in Houston. Please become a stockholder during the month of April to support their travel, lodging, and registration fees for the Gathering.

Each Stock share is a ticket to our Stockholders' Banquet, which will be held on Sunday, August 26, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Please mark your calendars now for this special time for our youth to serve you and to say thank you for all your prayers and your investment in each of them. The senior high will share their story during the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Following worship, the youth will serve you a home cooked meal and show an awesome slideshow of their adventures from their trip and answer questions.

Senior high youth attending this year are Emily Giesecke, Matthew Diana, William Hall, Griffin Hall, Ander Escudero, Beau Perez, Stella Schwarze, Taylor Dettmer, Daisha Tenorio, and Cisco Tenorio. Chaperones for the trip are Troy Hall, Brandon Albrecht, and Jeff and Carrie Jowers.

FX3 & The Light: Jr. & Sr. High Youth

The Jr. and Sr. High Youth will meet twice a month on Sunday evenings for fellowship, games, dinner, and a Bible study. Meeting dates for the month of March are:

Sunday, March 4: Talent Show & Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 18: Bible study on parables from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Changing Lives One Step at a Time

Donate your new or gently used shoes to Christian Assistance Ministry's (CAM) Soles4Souls Shoe Drive!

CAM helps people living in poverty gain dignity, courage, and hope. When you donate new or gently used shoes, you're helping people get back on their feet, literally! We need men's and women's shoes of all sizes & brands, children's shoes of all sizes & brands, and men's work boots.

There will be a box in the CrossWay for collection of all types of shoes--especially needed are children's and men's and again especially tennis shoes but all kinds are useful and helpful.

The event will be held February - March 31st, 2018 at CAM downtown at 110 McCullough Ave. or at the northwest location at 5084 DeZavala .

Contact: Sarah Kory at 210-223-4099 or skory@cam-sa.org for more information.

CLC Book Club

Join the energetic group that enjoys talking about a great read! In March, join us to talk about The Jersey Brothers by Sally Mott Freeman. It's the true story of a missing naval officer in the Pacific and his family's quest to bring him home. The author is a member of the family. You will meet again some of the people from Indestructible.

Our April reading will be Lincoln on the Bardo by George Saunders. Contact Edna Robbins for more information.

Fair Trade Sale March 25

Hollye Schwartz, owner of All's Fair, a fair trade boutique in San Antonio, will be in the CrossWay on Palm Sunday, March 25, with handmade items from around the world. Fair Trade is an organized social movement that helps artisans and producers in developing countries make better trading conditions and promote sustainability. Fair trade insures that workers get fair compensation for their products. Shop for exotic teas and coffees, handmade gift items, chocolate, and Easter goodies. Save the date!

Staff

The Rev. Leslie Price
Pastor

Dana Ferrero
Director of Day School

Becky Richard
Office Manager/Accountant

Linda Sulser
Administrative Assistant

Dr. Dan Long
Director of Music Ministry

Matthew Goodson
Organist

Carrie Jowers
Jr. & Sr. High Youth Director

Brandon Albrecht
Assistant to Jr. & Sr. High
Youth Director

Tessa Baden
Children's Ministry Director

Lisa Diana
Minister of Mission & Outreach

Sharon Wiedemann
Youth Choir Accompanist

Clara Tenorio
Church "Keeper" &
Nursery Attendant

Sam Tenorio
Custodian

Ryan Loyd
Sound Tech

Congregation Council

Robb Decker, President

Joe Diana, Vice Pres.

Sharon Wiedemann,
Treasurer

Blossom Stobb, Secretary

Sarah Loyd, Trustee

Chris Fidaio, Trustee

Carolyn Dufelmeier, Trustee

Pastor Leslie Price

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CELEBRATE

Holy Week

Palm Sunday Services March 25 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service March 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service March 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Services Sunday, April 1 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Christ is risen!

An Easter Breakfast will be offered for all ages and Easter Egg Hunts for toddlers through 5th grade will be held between services at 9:15 a.m.

Please join us as we celebrate!